



# GREEN LINE EXTENSION PROJECT



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GLX Community Working Group  
Monthly Meeting  
December 3, 2019

# Agenda

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## **GLX Year in Review/Highlights**

- Terry McCarthy, GLX – MBTA

## **Construction Update**

- Jeff Wagner, Public Involvement Manager, GLX-C



# MBTA Update



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## 2019 Year in Review / Highlights



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# Arrival of Multi-Purpose Machine (MPM)



*January 2019*



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# Third Avenue Demolition



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*



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# Third Avenue Demolition



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*



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# Homans Building – Gilman Square



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*



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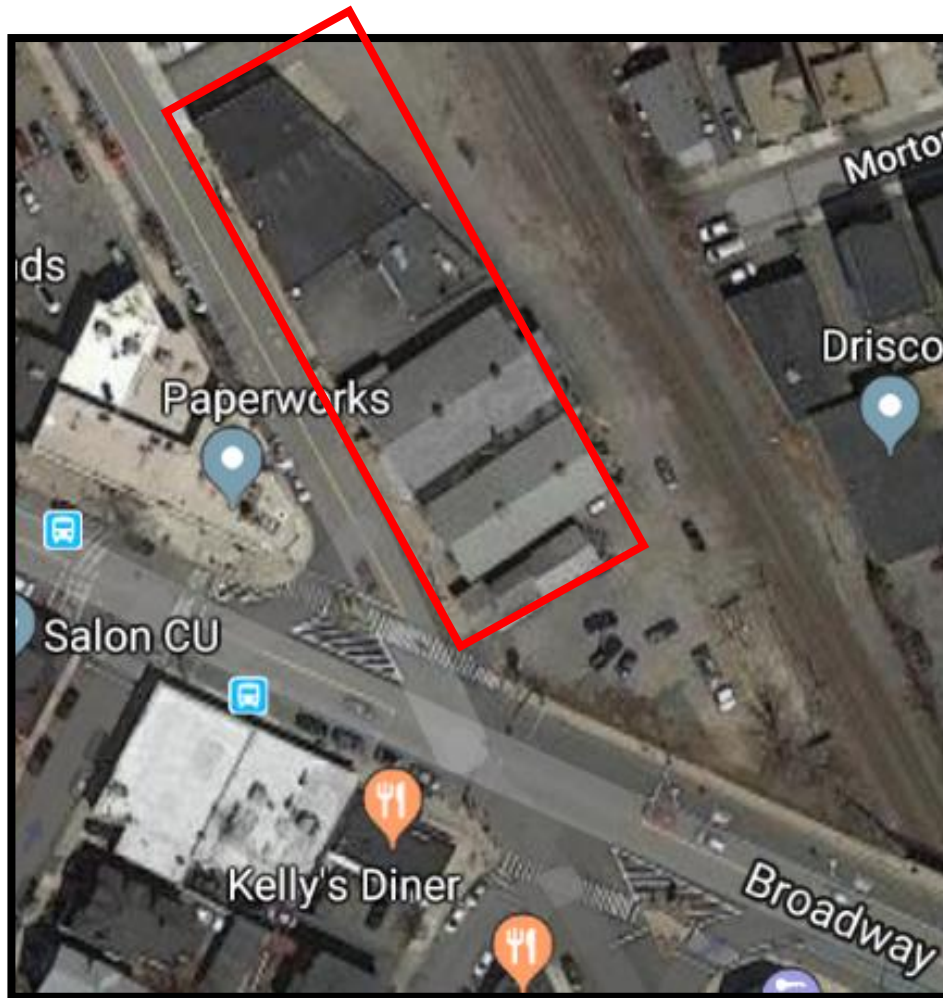
# Homans Building – Gilman Square



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*



# Ball Square Demolition



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*





# Ball Square Demolition



*Utility Isolation, Hazardous Material Abatement, and Demolition*



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# Lechmere and Fitchburg Viaducts



*Viaduct / Drilled Shaft Work*





# Broadway Bridge



*Facing South*



# Broadway Bridge



*Facing North*





# Washington Street Bridge

- *Phase I nearly complete*
- *Phase II start sequenced with upcoming track shift*





# Medford Street Bridge

Commencement of drilled shafts targeted for January 2020





# Gilman Square Utility Work

60" Drainage pipe installation 200 feet of completion





# GLX-C Construction Update



## Railway Worker Protection – Rail Shunts

- Keolis has implemented additional safety protocols to the Railway Worker Protection (RWP) Job Briefing Process
- Employees In Charge (EICs) will now install a shunt on the affected tracks prior to delivering the RWP Briefing
- Supplemental protection shows the affected tracks are under the control of the EIC
- A rail shunt is a low-resistance wire apparatus that when clamped to parallel tracks will create a short-circuit between them mimicking conditions present when a locomotive is on the tracks
- Shunt communicates affected track(s) are occupied and trains are not allowed to enter



# Construction Update



## Key construction activities through end of 2019 / early 2020

- **Relocate Commuter Rail Track to final position on eastern side of alignment**
- **Prior to track relocation we must:**
  - Complete drainage work including north of Broadway at Granville
  - Complete noise & retaining wall panel placement
- **Vehicle Maintenance Facility**
  - Foundation, underground utilities, retaining wall, and stormwater detention facility
- **Lechmere area/Boston Engine Terminal**
  - Steel in place throughout & deck placement underway
  - Continue construction on new Lechmere station





# Construction Update

## Track Shift





# Construction Update



## Commuter Rail Track Shift Section 1 – near Tufts University

- Completed one line of track shift weekend of Nov. 22 – 24
- Track 2 to be shifted Dec. 14 & 15
- Weather has been a challenge



# Construction Update

## Commuter Rail Track Shift

### Section 2 – Washington St. to Sycamore St.

- Track shift now planned for Jan. 18 – 19, 2020
- Preparations for track shift continue throughout this span
- Stormwater line placement near Central to be completed by end of next week





# Construction Update

## Commuter Rail Track Shift

### Section 3 – Sycamore St. to Harvard St.

- Drainage and wall work continues along this stretch of the project





# Construction Update

## Union Square Station Area

- Soil remediation underway near the future Union Square Station
  - 3,500 cubic yards of contaminated material to be dispositioned
- Retaining wall construction behind Target to start next week



# Construction Update

## Lechmere Area

- Foundation drilling continues between BET area and Water St.
- Actively pouring concrete columns and pier caps for viaduct and Community Path





# Construction Update

## Boston Engine Terminal Area

- Work near Brickbottom Condominiums is very active and will continue especially with Community Path foundation drilling





# Construction Update

## Boston Engine Terminal Area





# Construction Update

## Vehicle Maintenance Facility

- Retaining wall work and drainage installation continues
- Foundation work on VMF and Transportation Building underway



# Construction Update

## Temporary Fire Truck Outpost near Washington St.





# Outreach

## GLX Hotline and Response to Comments/Requests

- 965 Inquiries thru Hotline, e-mail or direct contact with outreach staff (as of Nov. 27)
- 894 actions closed out.



# Outreach

## GLX Community Connection Team

- The Thanksgiving Food Drive brought in more than 700 pounds of food and personal care product donations.



Project Soup staff thank the GLX Project Team for their continued support.

The GLX Community Connections Team  
PRESENTS

Somerville Homeless Coalition

**FALL**

**FOOD DRIVE**

**MOST WANTED**  
Peanut Butter  
Toiletries - (toothpaste,  
sani-wipes, deodorant)  
Oil - Small Bottles  
Coffee  
Lunch-size snacks

\*BRING UNEXPIRED - NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS\*

**FOOD DRIVE** **OCT 28** **NOV 15** **FOOD DRIVE**

Drop Off Locations: GLXC Main Office (2nd floor lobby)  
GLX Office (3rd floor lobby)  
or 35 Charlestown St.



# Outreach

## GLX Community Connection Team

- Holiday Season Fundraiser has us teaming up with Medford PD



MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

&

THE GLX COMMUNITY CONNECTION TEAM

HAS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT CAUSE



They are a non-profit organization committed to helping victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes.

Portal to Hope offers the following services:

Emergency shelter in a protective, nurturing environment which is free from mental, physical or sexual violence

Legal aid for ensuring continued civil protections through the legal court system

Job placement & housing assistance which helps victims rebuild their lives, both professionally and personally

Youth programs designed to educate our children and help break the cycle of violence.



Donations suggested:

Gift cards: Marshalls, TJ Maxx & Kohl's

Transportation cards: Charlie cards for MBTA rides

Food gift cards: Market Basket, Stop & Shop & Wegmans

Deadline: Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am

Drop off Locations: 200 Inner Belt Road or 35 Charlestown St.

To ensure safekeeping please give all gift cards to Mary Grace or Alanna

# Discussion

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Q & A



**GREEN LINE EXTENSION PROJECT**  
**December 3, 2019 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING – SUMMARY MINUTES**

LOCATION OF MEETING: GLX Project Office, 200 Inner Belt Rd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Somerville, MA 02143

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: December 3, 2019, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.,

**ATTENDANCE:**

CWG Members: Viola Augustin (Somerville), Joseph Barr (Cambridge), Elliott Bradshaw (East Somerville - Brickbottom), Jim McGinnis (Union Square), Ryan Dunn (Magoun Sq.), Jim Silva (Medford - Ball Square), Jim McGinnis (Union Square), Jason Alves (East Cambridge), Laurel Ruma (Medford)

MassDOT/MBTA: Terry McCarthy (MBTA Deputy Program Manager of Stakeholder Engagement)

GLX Project Team: Randy Henke, Martin Nee, and Jeff Wagner

Other Attendees: Tim Dineen (VNA resident)

**PRESENTATION:**

Terry McCarthy opened the meeting and welcomed the group. Prior to beginning the presentation, a discussion on nighttime noise was initiated by J. Silva. The concern was whether activities prohibited after 10:00 p.m. were ceasing on-time. Jeff Wagner explained he had already had discussions with high-level construction managers and it was agreed all prohibited activities would cease at 10:00 p.m. sharp going forward. After that time, lagging for supportive excavation would be allowed, but no impact hammering. On a positive note, Jeff explained the hoe ramming activity for the 60-inch drainage pipe between Gilman Square and Magoun Square would be complete in the next week or so. This, he felt would result in a noticeable improvement in nighttime noise activity for the near future.

Terry McCarthy noted this was the CWG's 25 consecutive monthly meeting and provided the group with a review of 2019 activities. He noted considerable progress along the entire extent of the project limits. Particular highlights of progress included, bridge work, noise walls, utilities, track work, viaducts, the Vehicle Maintenance Facility, and preliminary station work at Lechmere Station. Terry also mentioned that steel fabrication has begun for the girders to span the Broadway Bridge.

Discussion continued over the nighttime noise impacts of various operations. The GLX team explained in general, as the project activities shift from underground activities—particularly as they get away from deep, underground utility work which often entail unknown soil conditions—residents should begin to see an increase in the pace of work in specific areas. There is a general sense that above-ground work will move more quickly along the alignment (than, for example, the 60-Inch drainage line between School and Sycamore Streets) and therefore, the duration of noisy activities in specific areas may pass individual residences more quickly.

A question was asked if the noise at Ball Square would get worse. Terry made it clear there would always be the hum of construction along the alignment. He explained that concrete form work and placement of concrete is generally quieter than hoe ramming, but there is still a considerable amount of demo work ahead of us with the Lechmere Viaduct, etc., and it is too soon to predict what nighttime noise levels will be in certain areas.

A question was asked about the phasing of the Broadway Bridge. Randy Henke explained how Phase I is ready for the tracks to be relocated onto the new bridge. Phase II involves demolishing the last remaining section of the bridge (currently in use). Once the track shift takes place that demo will start and the remaining portion of the bridge will be constructed with an expected completion in Spring of 2020.

Jeff Wagner followed Terry's comments with a detailed construction update. His presentation included specifics on:

- Worker Safety
- Upcoming permanent relocation of the commuter rail / freight track on the west/north side of the New Hampshire Main Line alignment.
  - North of College Ave
  - Washington Street to Sycamore Street
  - Sycamore to Harvard Street
- Foundation progress and retaining wall work at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility
- Steel placement at Lechmere and Fitchburg viaducts and Lechmere Station
- Preliminary station work at Union Square
- Foundation drilling between the MBTA Boston Engine Terminal and Water Street
- Actively pouring concrete columns and pier caps for viaducts and the Community Path near Brickbottom
- Deck construction and concrete placement on viaducts along the Fitchburg Viaduct
- Completion of a temporary fire truck outpost near Washington Street and New Washington Street
- GLX Hotline and response to comments/requests topped 965 Inquiries in November with 894 issues closed out to-date
- The GLX Community Connections Team donated more than 700 pounds of food to the Somerville Homeless Commission

Questions were asked about the scheduling noise panel installations. Jeff stated the exact timing was under discussion with GLXC and would be the subject of a future meeting. The life expectancy of the proposed panels has not been approved yet. Tests are being conducted to make sure the panels will meet MBTA quality requirements for corrosion and longevity.

In the meantime, it was stated that the track shift of the commuter rail into its permanent location is the main priority now and steel and decking on the viaducts will continue throughout the winter.

A concern was raised about trees determined by neighbors to be unstable at the northern limit of the project near Winthrop Street Bridge in Medford. Terry reported that he is working with Keolis on the issue and would keep residents informed of progress. He suggested that residents might want to track the issue through the MBTA email complaint process available at [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com).

The conversation shifted back to the Lechmere Viaduct demolition and bus diversions to and from North Station for approximately one year beginning Spring 2020. It was agreed there should be a public meeting scheduled in East Cambridge as soon as the commencement date for the demo is known.



# # #

Next Community Working Group meeting January 7, 2020 at 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., at the GLX Project Office at 200 Inner Belt Rd in Somerville.